Appl. No. 09/648,590
Response dated August 3, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 29, 2004

In the Claims:

Claims 1-14 are present. No claims are amended in this response.

1. (previously presented) An image processing system comprising:

an image processing unit for processing input image; and

an output unit for outputting an image processed in the image processing unit;

wherein said image processing unit has a function of cutting out a background portion of the image and effecting color specification and further has a function of specifying a method of processing the background portion, and when printing the image, said output unit recognizes the background portion on basis of said color specification and carries out background processing for the recognized background portion on basis of said specified method of processing the background portion to replace the background portion with a background pattern substantially lacking perceptible unevenness.

2. (previously presented) An image processing system according to claim 1, wherein said output unit converts pixels into the background pattern and replaces the background portion with a printed discontinuous pattern on basis of the specified method of processing the background portion.

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3. (previously presented) An image processing system according to claim 2, wherein said discontinuous pattern is chosen from a group consisting of a stripe pattern and a dot pattern.

4. (original) An image processing system according to claim 1, wherein said color specification specifies a uniform density of a specific color.

5. (previously presented) An image processing system comprising:

an image processing unit including:

means for replacing a background portion of an image with a specified background design;

means for specifying a method of processing the background portion; and

means for transmitting information indicating said specified method of processing and said image with the background portion replaced by said background design; and

an output unit including:

means for receiving image data and information indicating a received method of processing the background portion;

means for recognizing a background portion by detecting said specified background design in said received image data;

means for carrying out background processing for the recognized background portion based on said received method of

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processing, generating processed image data replacing the background design with a background pattern; and

means for printing out said processed image data.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 5 wherein the background design includes a color specification.

7. (previously presented) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

replacing a background portion of an image with a specified background indicator design;

specifying a method of processing the background portion; and

transmitting the image with the background portion replaced by the background indicator design, and information indicating the specified method of processing the background portion; and

at an output unit:

receiving image data and information indicating the method of processing the background portion;

recognizing the background portion by detecting the background indicator design in the received image data; and

processing the recognized background portion according to the received method of processing to replace the background indicator design of the background portion with a background pattern capable of being printed substantially without unevenness perceptible to the human eye.

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8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the background indicator design includes a color specification.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of processing the recognized background portion includes converting pixels of the background portion into a discontinuous pattern constituting the background pattern.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the background pattern is discontinuous.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the discontinuous background pattern is chosen from a group consisting of a striped pattern and a dotted pattern.

12. (previously presented) An image processing system comprising:

an image processing unit; and

an output unit,

said image processing unit comprising

means for replacing the background portion of an image by a specified background design,

means for specifying a method of processing the background portion,

means for transmitting information indicating said specified method of processing; and

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said image with the background portion replaced by said background design; and

said output unit comprising:

means for receiving image data and information indicating a received method of processing the background portion,

means for recognizing a background portion by detecting said specified background design in said received image data,

means for carrying out background processing for the recognized background portion on basis of said received method of processing, generating processed image data, and

means for printing out said processed image data.

13. (previously presented) An image processing system according to claim 12, wherein said output unit converts pixels into the background pattern and replaces the background portion with a discontinuous pattern on basis of the specified method of processing the background portion.

14. (previously presented)) An image processing system according to claim 13, wherein said discontinuous pattern is chosen from a group consisting of a stripe pattern and a dot pattern.